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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/712,047

Examiner

Hargobind S. Sawhney

Applicant(s)

CRAMER ET AL.

Art Unit

2875

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application filed on 11/24/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 24 November 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/14/03, 11/26/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-15 are allowed.

The prior art of record, including Levilain (U.S. Patent No. 4,894,754), Fladhammer (U.S. Patent No. 6,692,176 B1) and Maughan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,904,436), fails to show or suggest the applicant's invention as claimed. Specifically, the prior art of record does not disclose a vehicular headlight including a ball- and-socket joint combining:

- the ball enclosed with socket segments, and both the ball and socket segments inserted together in a receptacle as recited in claims 1 and 11; and
- The receptacle including elastic detent elements engaging the base of the socket, and further retaining the socket in axially as recited in claims 1 and 11.

The above-indicated combination, including a receptacle including elastic detent elements in addition to socket segments, makes this disclosure unique.

Levilain ('754) discloses vehicular headlight including a ball- and- socket joint including a socket with two segments. However, Levilain ('754) does not teach a receptacle comprising elastic segments retaining the socket in axial position as claimed by the applicant.

Fladhammer ('176 B1) and Maughan et al. ('436) each discloses a ball-and socket joint combining a socket with two segments as the aligning means for the ball.

However, neither combined nor individual teaching of Fladhammer ('176 B1) and Maughan et al. ('436) teaches a combination with a receptacle comprising elastic detent elements retaining the socket in axial position as claimed by the applicant. Thus, neither combined nor individual teaching of Levilain ('754), Fladhammer ('176 B1) and Maughan et al. ('436) meets the limitations of claims 1 and 11.

Therefore, claims 1 and 11 are allowed over prior art.

Claims 2-10 are necessarily allowed because of their dependency on the allowed Claim 1.

Claims 12-15 are necessarily allowed because of their dependency on the allowed Claim 11.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Burton (U.S. Patent No. 6,113,301), Amdahl (U.S. Patent No. 5,653,548), Maughan (U.S. Patent No. 5,564,853), Weber (U.S. Patent No. 5,032,965), Morin (U.S. Patent No. 4,318,627) and Cutler (U.S. Patent No. 3,787,127)


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3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hargobind S Sawhney whose telephone number is 571 272 2380. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:15 - 2:45.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 571 272 2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HSS
5/10/05


Stephen Husar
Primary Examiner